

Exceptional Review Process –Frequently Asked Questions-Beneficiary

1. What is Special Authorization coverage?

NLPDP will cover some drugs only for specific medical conditions. These drugs are usually not considered to be first choice based on clinical evidence as there may be more effective and affordable options available.

2. Which drugs can be considered under the Exceptional Review Process?

Only drugs considered under the Special Authorization Process can be considered under the Exceptional Review Process. Requests can be considered for an off label use or for a different medical condition than that considered under Special Authorization. Drugs considered under Special Authorization are listed on our website at:

http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/prescription/covered_specialauthdrugs.html

3. What does off label use mean?

Off label use refers to a drug that is marketed for a specific health condition but is being used to treat another health condition for which it is not approved through Health Canada.

4. Is the Exceptional Review Process available for drug therapies that are awaiting Health Canada approval and licensing and/or review through an established expert review process?

No. These therapies will not be funded until there is a positive funding recommendation from the expert review committee and a listing decision from the Department.

5. Are drugs that are not listed on the NLPDP benefit list under Special Authorization considered for the Exceptional Review Process?

No. If the drug requested is not listed on the NLPDP benefit list under Special Authorization, it will not be considered for Exceptional Review and denied.

6. What if the beneficiary does not meet the established criteria for a drug which is listed on the NLPDP benefit list under Special Authorization?

If the beneficiary does not meet the established criteria for the drug it will not be considered for Exceptional Review and denied. Exceptions may apply when additional compelling evidence is presented that was not provided with the original request.

7. How long does it take to assess an Exceptional Review Request?

Depending on the complexity of the request and the work load at the time, it could take anywhere from a few weeks to a couple of months to assess an Exceptional Review Request.